

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 1,

AURELIA, IOWA, FEBRUARY, 1896.

No. 12.

Our CLUBBING List.

WOMANKIND,

Published at Springfield, Ohio, a 16-page, 64-column monthly journal for Woman and Home,..... 50 Cents.

FARM NEWS,

Sixteen large pages. A high class monthly journal for all departments of the farm,..... 50 Cents.

The Poultry Messenger, Twenty-five Cents.

The 3 Papers for 50 Cents.

This is the lowest clubbing offer that can possibly be made. If you want to take advantage of it you had better do so at once, as we do not know how long we can continue it.

Bone and Shell

FOR POULTRY.

Circular explaining benefit and how to feed it, and prices on lots of 100 lbs or more, delivered, freight paid at your railroad station, address

Fitch Fertilizer Works, Bay City, Mich.

Raw Bone has been proven by analysis to contain every part of an egg—White, Yolk and Shell. The lime of oyster shell furnishes shell material. The granulated size is for adult fowls; the meal is for chicks, and mixed with soft food. For

WOMAN'S DELIGHT

STEAM WASHER,

The best family washing machine made. A ten year old child can operate it. Saves soap, time, labor, temper. No rubbing necessary; machine and county rights in Iowa for sale. Address

D. H. HARRIS MANUFACTURING CO.
1207 23d Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

You Should Take the

Michigan Poultry Breeder.

A 20-page poultry paper devoted to poultry, pigeons, pet stock, diseases, remedies, etc. A paper that every breeder should have to refer to, only 50 cts a year. Sample copy, 6 cents.

Game Fanciers' Journal.

The oldest, cheapest, largest and best paper publishep, entirely devoted to the interest of the game fancier, breeder and cocker. Only 50 cents a year. Sample copy, 6 cents.

GEO. S. BARNES,
Battle reek, Mich.

WALL PAPER

At less than half the usual retail price

—WRITE FOR SAMPLES.—
C. H. TIEDT. 623 West 63d St. Chicago.

Good Paper at 5 Cents per Roll.

RAIL ROAD Lands

FOR SALE AT LOW PRICES AND ON EASY TERMS.

The Illinois Central Railroad Company offers for sale on easy terms and at low prices, 150,000 acres of choice fruit, gardening, farm and grazing lands located in

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

They are also largely interested in, and call especial attention to the 600,000 acres of land in the famous

Yazoo Valley

OF MISSISSIPPI

lying along and owned by the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Company, and which that company offers at low prices and on long terms. Special inducements and facilities offered to go and examine these lands both in Southern Illinois and in the Yazoo Valley, Miss. For further description, map and any information, address or call upon E. P. SKENE, Land Commissioner, No. 1 Park Row, Chicago, Ill., or G. W. McGINNIS, Ass't Land Commissioner, Memphis; Tenn.

Whinery's

Improved -||- Chesters

Are very Growthy, Prolific, Easy feeders. Go to every state, Canada and Mexico. 900 sold in 1895, over 1000 for 1896. Catalogue free.

Whinery's Swine Advocate

A 16-page monthly, 25c per year
WILLIS WHINERY, Salem, Ohio.

POULTRY DISEASES The most valuable treatise on Roup, Sorehead, diphtheritic sore throat, Canker mouth, Catarrh, etc., ever written. **Absolutely free.** Send 3 cents in stamps to pay postage.
WALTER KIRBY & CO., Marietta, O.

Barred and White

* Plymouth Rocks,

And Colored Muscovy Ducks

Are our specialties. Eggs \$2 per 13; \$3.50 per 26. Duck eggs \$2.50 per 11. We have 11 other varieties, and guarantee to please our customers or quit the business. Order early. A 2-cent stamp gets our illustrated catalogue. Address

J. E. Teal & Co.
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Buff Plymouth Rocks

Exclusively.

A Clean Sweep

At Jackson, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, Michigan, '95 and '96.

Choice Breeders For Sale.

My matings this season must produce grand results. My birds are remarkable for their large size, fine symmetry, and true Cochín color.

G. W. HAMM,
Battle Creek, Michigan.

Prof. James Wilson, says:

"Mr. Stewart is giving us a readable HOG PAPER in the AMERICAN SWINE BREEDER." Published at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Fifty cents a year; 25 cents for 6 months. Every farmer in Iowa should read it.

The American Swine Breeder

And the MESSENGER—both papers one year for 50 cents. Send subscriptions to The Messenger Company, Aurelia, Iowa.

CENTRAL NURSERIES

Complete in all departments. Fruit trees of all kinds and small fruits. Evergreens cheap by the 100 for wind-breaks. Ornamental trees, roses, bults, shrubs, etc. SPECIALTIES: Wragg Cherries, Evergreens and Grape Vines, 1 and 2 years old, first class vines, cheap in large quantities. Send for price list.

Agents Wanted

J. WRAGG & SONS
WAUKEE, IOWA.

BARRED PLYMOUTH * ROCKS

N. S. Beardsley Strain. Exclusively.

Large Frame.
Fine Barring.

Eggs \$2.00 per Sitting. No Stock for sale.

Care of First National Bank.
Yards at 653 Burr Street.

F. A. NIENHAUSER.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

GREER'S BARRED Plymouth Rocks

SILVER LACED WYANDOTTES,

....AND....

S. C. Brown Leghorns,

Are from the

Best Strains in America.

Eighteen years experience enables me to Mate For Best Results. Eggs this season \$2.00 for 15. My circular shows the most beautiful cut of a pullet I ever saw. Address

O. P. GREER, Bourbon, Indiana.



INCUBATOR'S **IMPROVED OLENTANGY**
POSITIVELY SELF REGULATING
FOR DESCRIPTION AND TESTIMONIALS ALSO STAMPS
BREEDER OF 40 VARIETIES HIGH CLASS POULTRY
TO RAISE POULTRY FOR PROFIT OR PLEASURE
DON'T FAIL TO SEND TO G. S. SINGER, CARDINGTON, OHIO BOX 110

Ship Your Produce Direct

TO MARKET. It is the only way to get the true value of what you have to sell. It is no longer an experiment. Our shippers testify to it every day. We receive and sell: Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Veal, Game, Hay, Grain, Beans, Seeds, Potatoes, Broom Corn, Hides, Wool, Green and Dried Fruit, Vegetables, or any thing you may have to ship. We make prompt sales at the Highest Market Price and send quick returns. Write us for Prices, Shipping Tags, or any information you may want.

SUMMERS, MORRISON & CO., Commission Merchants,
174 South Water Street, CHICAGO, ILL

References: Metropolitan National Bank, Chicago, and this paper.

Music Lovers

Learn to play any instrument

Without a Teacher.

Send 50.. for Self Instructor.

Also for professional strings for Violin, Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar. Per set 50c. postpaid. Stamps taken.

I. M. MARSH, Delavan, Illinois.



FIELD AND HOG FENCE WIRE.

All horizontal lines are cables; not affected by heat and cold; adjusts itself to hilly ground without buckling. Built for service and durability. Write for full information.

UNION FENCE CO., DeKalb, Ill.

112 High Street.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 1,

AURELIA, IOWA, FEBRUARY, 1896.

No. 12.

THE WARM MASH.

The warm morning mash which by many poultrymen is regarded as such an important thing for laying hens in winter, is really not necessary. In fact, it is contended by many that it is a positive damage. These last say that it predisposes the fowls to roup—that the flock to which it is given is never as hardy as one which gets all its food cold.

These breeders may or may not be in the right, we shall not undertake to say. But we are very sure that it is not necessary to give hens a warm breakfast in order to get them to lay in winter. Some of the most successful poultrymen of our acquaintance don't give a mash either warm or cold for breakfast or any time. The flock gets whole grain for breakfast, dinner and supper, and nothing else except a feed of meat scraps twice a week, and granulated bone and grit before them all the time. The eggs from this kind of diet far outnumber anything which the writer has ever been able to obtain from the most carefully prepared mash he has ever been able to put together. And so for several years past we have been growing more and more shaky on the subject of mashes, common and scientific, hot, cold and "mejum." We continue to use them, as our faith in them is not entirely gone, but from seeing our neighbor get as good and even better results than we do without them year after year, we don't feel like saying much in their favor. We have had it demonstrated to us, that hens can be made to lay in a manner which ought to be satisfactory to any poultry keeper without the mash. This having been the uniform result for a series of years, we shall no longer contend that the morning mash is a necessity.

We would not advise any one who is attaining the object he has in view by means of the mash to discontinue it. We believe in continuing in the way one

has succeeded the best. If any reader of this is getting satisfactory results from the mash, by all means continue to supply the hens with it. All the books and poultry papers in existence could not lay down a plan which it would be more to your advantage to make use of than your own. But those whose plans have so far been a failure are ready for something new. To dispose with the mash entirely is a new idea. It might be tried with one flock as an experiment. We know that in many instances the flock is "mashed" into utter worthlessness. Where there is any ground for suspecting this there is a chance for learning something of importance by cutting them off from it entirely for a few months.

A Good Quality in the Leghorns.

A point which many of the Leghorn people claim for their favorite breed is that they are not nearly so subject to the evils of overfeeding as the medium sized breeds. It is even contended by some breeders of the Leghorns that it is simply impossible to overfeed them, provided the food is placed before them in reasonable variety. When this is done, although they will consume a large amount of food, it will not cause them to take on fat to a degree that will seriously interfere with egg-production. We are told that the nervous, restless habit of the Leghorns prevents the storing up of fat under any circumstances. This writer has had only a limited experience with the Leghorns, and is very far from an authority with reference to that family; but the little knowledge which we have picked up concerning them inclines us to the belief that there is some foundation for the above claim. Our Leghorns have kept in good condition and laid freely on an amount of food which would have brought egg production to a dead stand still in our yards of Wyandottes or Langshans. We should be

pleased to be enlightened on this point by some one who has had a long experience with this family, and is thoroughly familiar with the Leghorn nature.

Failures at Hammonton.

At Hammonton, N. J., where the surroundings are supposed to be peculiarly favorable to broiler raising, not ten per cent of those who have made a start in the business have continued in it. Like everything else related to poultry keeping, those who undertake to make a living in this way meet with unexpected difficulties and discouragements, and only a small proportion have the perseverance to hold out until these are overcome.

King Birds or Hawks.

In a hawk infested neighborhood, one had better not undertake to raise chickens and bees too, if the safety of the latter depends upon the destruction of the king birds, or bee martins. As a protection against the hawks, a pair of these audacious little birds in the vicinity of the poultry houses beats all the traps which can be devised.

LA SALLE, ILL., Jan., 14, 1896.

Editor MESSENGER:

Aurelia, Iowa.

Dear Sir:—We have just shipped a pen of Cochins to Nebraska as a result of our ad. in your paper, which we like very much. May it prosper.

Yours truly,

CONLEY & Co.

A very little thing will make all the difference between success and failure in the poultry business; and in either case the cause is generally with the poultryman, and not with the breed of chickens he keeps.

Anyone wishing to become proficient in the handling of poultry should send ten cents in stamps to the Des Moines Incubator Co., Des Moines, Iowa, for their book on practical poultry keeping

PATIENCE.

Patience is a quality which the person who undertakes to make a business of poultry keeping must possess in large chunks. He will not achieve a large measure of success without it. The man who cannot "learn to labor and to wait" is decidedly out of place as the manager of a poultry farm. The waiting is often by far the most trying part of it. Many people who can labor from morning till night, and feel good over it, can't stand the waiting. They will chafe and worry over the delays they meet with in getting the results which they are seeking, and can scarcely allow any plan they may be testing time enough to work out the proof of its own success or failure.

Take the matter of winter eggs, for instance. The inexperienced poultryman has a promising lot of hens in the fall, and he starts into the winter full of the determination to solve the problem of getting an abundance of eggs during cold weather. He is well read up on this subject and is very hopeful and confident. The eggs begin to appear in October and November, and the owner congratulates himself over the supposed fact that the victory is won. But in December the hens begin to slacken up in their laying, and by Christmas the flock of say twenty-five birds are furnishing but one or two eggs a day. Something has gone wrong. Whatever the trouble is the owner is to blame for it, and not the fowls; he had better admit that from the start. There has been bad management somewhere, and the thing for the owner to do is to set himself patiently to work and find out just what it is that has brought about this unlooked for result. If he can solve the mystery and get those hens down to business again any time before the opening of spring, he has done a good winter's work even though he has not obtained eggs enough to pay for their feed. He has had an experience which all who engage in a like undertaking must have sooner or later, and has learned something which will make him sure of eggs the next winter and every winter that follows.

But how is the owner to discover what is wrong? Simply by experimenting; there is no other way. If the house is warm, the flock healthy and free from vermin, he may safely infer that there has been some mistake made

in feeding. The fowls have been overfed or underfed, or fed too much of one thing and not enough of another. Perhaps the owner will conclude that they have simply been overfed. He kills and dresses one and the condition of the carcass seems to indicate that he is right in this conclusion. But it is necessary for him to demonstrate this beyond all question, and it will take him many weeks to do it. All this time there will be no improvement of the egg question. The chances are that the small number which was before fore being secured will be withheld, but the owner must patiently follow out the experiment until full proof is obtained that overfeeding was or was not the cause of the trouble.

Under such circumstances as these it is too often the case that the poultryman fails to settle upon any well defined plan of action with the determination to follow it out to a conclusion. He will guess that the stoppage of eggs was caused by overfeeding, and will forthwith cut down the feed of the flock to one-half the amount previously given. He will probably feed in this way one or two weeks, but as the eggs don't come by that time, he again guesses that he must have been mistaken in charging the trouble to overfeeding, and will conclude that it was caused by too much or too little corn, or oats, or meat scraps, or cut bone, and will putter around experimenting along each of these lines for a week or so, learning nothing and accomplishing nothing.

Patience is the most valuable quality which the inexperienced poultry keeper, overtaken by disappointment and misfortune, can possess. Patient persistence in all rightly conceived experiments will in the end unlock the door to all the mysteries which so confuse him at the start, and remove every obstacle to his success.

Dosing the Egg-Eaters.

It is alleged that egg-eating hens can be completely cured of the habit by feeding them egg shells. Mr. George H. Gallinger, one of the large poultry raisers of New York, recommends this plan. He has laid aside all other methods of coping with this vice, and places his entire dependence upon the egg shells. He dumps the shells down before the hens in a heap, and after thus dosing them for a few days there is no

more egg-eating in those quarters. Those who are having a contest with their hens on account of this provoking habit cannot do better than to try this method of breaking it up.

Forty Miles of Fence a Day.

In the year 1894 the De Kalb Fence Company, of De Kalb, Illinois, doubled their capacity for producing their lines over 1893, which gave them an output of twenty miles per day. The demand for their goods has been so great the past season, that in order to be able to supply their trade, they have been compelled this year to double the capacity of 1894, which now gives them an output of forty miles per day. It will be to your interest to write for their catalogue, which describes in detail their goods, comprising the largest and most complete lines of smooth wire fencing now produced by any one plant in the country. See their advertisement on another page of this paper.

To Prevent Feather Pulling.

A piece of salt pork hung up in the poultry house will go a long ways towards preventing the ugly habit of feather pulling. The small, non-setting breeds are more liable to fall into this habit than the larger ones, and the keepers of such breeds may save themselves much trouble and annoyance by occasionally placing a piece of salt pork in the coops. It is not likely that there will be any need of the pork except during the winter months when for long periods the fowls are closely confined to the house.

Need to Be Careful.

This is the time of year when many persons are having stock delivered to them which they have purchased of other breeders. The greater portion of new stock always will be purchased in the early spring. This should not be the case, and everyone knows it, but from one cause or another the most of such purchases will be put off till this time of year. Accident, scarcity of means, and a natural disposition to put off the doing of things till the last moment, must all come in for a share of the blame. Though there is but little danger of introducing disease into the flock through a bird purchased of a responsible breeder, it will be well enough to put the bird in a pen to himself where he can be closely observed for a day or two. It sometimes pays when such a precaution would seem to be wholly unnecessary.

THE RUNTY PULLETS.

Go out among your yards to-day and take particular notice of the half grown pullets to which you decided to give house room last fall. Try to figure out how much more they are worth to-day than when you took them off the range and put them in the yards with the older fowls for the winter. We will venture to say that a goodly proportion of those so housed are no longer in the land of the living. About the time that winter fairly set in they "went light," and the morning that they were found dead on the floor there didn't appear to be anything left of them but feathers and bones. And they didn't die from any particular disease. It was simply a case of starvation. They were whipped away from the feed by the stronger fowls and were pecked at and abused until life became a burden to them. It seemed like there was no place for them in the world, and so they got out of it.

It is always a mistake to confine partly grown pullets in the winter quarters with the mature fowls. Those which survive the abuse that they receive will be in a miserable condition when spring arrives, and half the summer will be gone before they will pick up enough to contribute anything to the contents of the egg basket. And at best they will always remain runts.

We are not opposing the rearing of late chickens. It often pays exceedingly well to hatch out chickens even as late as August, if for nothing else, to keep the family supplied with "spring chicken" during the winter. But such chickens should always be housed to themselves and given food and attentions altogether different from that required by the laying hens. If rightly managed they can be brought through the winter in excellent shape, and there are substantial advantages in having such a flock on the place. Among other things they will be laying steadily when the older hens are setting or rearing broods of chicks.

Handled in this manner a few broods of late hatched chickens may be made very profitable, but if the owner is not prepared to give them a place to themselves the proper thing for him to do is to sell them before winter for what they will bring. He had better give them away, or even pay a little something for somebody to take them, than

to try to carry them over winter in the same house with the older fowls.

WILL NOT BE OVERDONE.

No one need hesitate to enter the poultry business through fear that it is going to be overdone. Some people believe that owing to the increased interest which has been aroused in this subject within the past decade there has been such a rush in this direction that the profits of the business must soon be destroyed. These people can rest easy in the assurance that there is not the slightest danger of anything of this kind. While it is true that there has been a mighty rush into this field of late years, there has also been a pretty lively rush out of it. It is a field which affords very meager sustenance to those who are in the habit of doing things in a rushing way.

It is true that there are a great many more people who are making a business of poultry raising than were so engaged ten years ago. But have you noticed any marked decline in the price of eggs and poultry? The market price of these products is just as good as it was ten years ago, except for the poorer kinds of stock. The public has become somewhat more critical with regard to the kind of stuff it buys. It has been found out that there is a marked difference in the table qualities of chickens, and the dry, tough, unsavory flesh of the dunghill is no longer accepted as being as good as anything simply because it is a chicken. The people who do not have chicken on their tables oftener than a dozen times a year have learned that there is a distinct difference between the table qualities of a scrub and those of a Plymouth Rock.

Those poultrymen do not fully grasp this fact who are in the habit of disposing of their chickens to the traveling poultry buyer, who usually makes no distinction between scrubs and thoroughbreds, or shipping them to some small, interior market which is easily overstocked. But those who know how to market fowls as well as to raise them will bear witness to the truth of the statement which we have here made.

The mere possession of fine stock will not of itself attract buyers who are willing to pay for it the prices which it ought to bring. The owner must devote some study and investigation to the finding of the right market for it,

and to the best means of getting it on to the market. It often requires as much good judgment to do this as it does to make a proper selection of a breed, and to bring the fowls up to a marketable condition. When all this is rightly attended to, it will be found that the old idea that there is no material difference between chickens no longer prevails among buyers where enterprising poultrymen have gone intelligently to work for the purpose of teaching them better.

But we are getting away from our subject. We started out to say that there is no danger of those poultry breeders suffering from an overproduction of poultry who raise good stock and look after the details of their business in an intelligent manner. And there isn't.

Prize Langshans.

We see that Mr. C. D. Bates, of Au Sable, Michigan, one of our advertisers, won 1st on Black Langshan hen at Saginaw in December, and also got a red and white ribbon. A setting of eggs from one of his prize hens won 1st for brown eggs and 1st for heavy eggs at Grand Rapids in January. Mr. Bates' Langshans are becoming widely known as the best of their class.

The Best Eggs for Setting.

Old and experienced breeders assure us that February and March laid eggs will hatch better and produce stronger chicks than those which are produced later in the spring. If this is true it is about time to quit sending eggs to market. It will be safe to set hens by the middle of next month, even here in the north, and if good care is taken of the eggs they may be kept three or four weeks without injury. Speaking from personal knowledge we would not say that these early laid eggs are really any better than those laid later, but good authorities state this as a fact, and we are disposed to take their word for it. We have learned to respect the wisdom of these same authorities as displayed in other ways with reference to poultry keeping.

If the hens are in a healthy condition don't dope them with the "spring tonic" which is so often recommended. The hens don't need it any more than a sound man needs spring bitters. Both are better off without such things

THERE IN DANGER IN OATS.

We believe poultrymen need to be cautioned regarding the free feeding of oats. The oat grain is excellent for poultry, and if there was only an easy way of feeding the grain to the fowls without at the same time introducing the hull into their crops, it would largely take the place of everything else for growing chicks or laying hens.

But except in limited quantity, oats is a dangerous thing to give to chickens. If they are permitted to regularly make a full meal of it it is very liable to produce clogging of the crop, and even when it is safely passed beyond this organ, its roughness seems to produce an irritation to the canal which soon becomes manifest in a dejected and mopish appearance of the hens. These bad effects are not nearly so liable to occur if the oats is fed in connection with other grain, the proportions being about one of oats to two of wheat and corn.

So much has been said about the virtues of oats, particularly in regard to its non-fattening and its egg-producing qualities, that the ill effects which it is likely to produce in a purely mechanical way are often overlooked.

When by some mistake or oversight a pen of hens has become too fat to lay well, we know of nothing that will reduce the excess more rapidly than the substitution of oats for one-third or one-half of the grain ration previously given; but even when supplied in this amount we would not feel safe in continuing it as a regular daily feed for a longer period than ten days or two weeks. We are sometimes advised to discontinue all grain but oats when the hens have become overfat, and when we read this advice, visions of the troubles in store for those who follow it always rise up before us.

It may be that we stand a little more in fear of oats than do the majority of poultrymen, but past experience justifies all the dread we have of it. Necessity sometimes compels us to feed oats more freely than we want to, and in so doing the results which we are constantly anticipating do not always follow; but it always produces an uncomfortable feeling in us to see a flock of valuable hens greedily devouring the grains of oats, and are never surprised to find one or more of them in a bad

state of dilapidation when we visit the poultry house in the morning.

SAVE THE GOOD LAYERS.

If some step has not been taken to mark the good layers preparatory to separating them from the balance of the flock when the breeding season arrives, or at least to save them from going to market with the balance of the old stock which may be sent away in the early spring, it is high time that this should be done. It is not too much to say that no one will ever get the best results from his poultry who neglects to thus yearly select out his best layers and retain them as breeders. The dominant qualities of fowls, good or bad, are transmitted from parent to offspring. The laws of heredity operate here the same as in any other part of nature's domain.

Flocks of chickens which are wholly neglected, the owners of which not even making a pretense of taking care of them, seldom fail to furnish some eggs even during the coldest weather of winter. You will often go into a poultry house with the window glass all broken out, or, perhaps, there is no window at all, only a hole in the side for light, and everything about it indicating that it is an extreme case of "root hog or die" with the fowls that are made to consider it a home; and yet the owner will tell you that he is getting one or two eggs a day, or maybe every other day. The flock may consist of a hundred or more hens, but out of the entire lot there are only one or two hens able to produce any eggs amidst the hard conditions under which they are compelled to exist. There is an inherent tendency in these hens to produce eggs which does not exist in the same degree in the others. Their chicks will possess this same quality if it is not entirely stamped out by bad mating and continued neglect and ill treatment.

Of course we have no hope of persuading people who compel their fowls to winter in such quarters as we have described to follow our suggestion in this matter. But those who attach a proper value to their chickens, and are desirous of finding out the best means of deriving the largest profit from them, will not consider it too much trouble to make this kind of a separation when the breeding season ap-

proaches, if they can be even half way convinced that it will pay.

REDLANDS, CAL, Jan., 22, '96.

The Messenger Co.,

Aurelia, Iowa.

Gentlemen—Enclosed please find 25 cents for which send the MESSENGER for one year beginning with January, 1896. I have received the sample copies each one of which is worth more than 25 cents for good advice. *It is the best poultry paper I have seen, size not considered.

Respectfully,
FANNIE ANTHONY.

The Successful "Successful."

The Successful Incubator, manufactured by the Des Moines Incubator Co., Des Moines, Iowa, in competition with some of the leading incubators of the country at Kansas City show recently won first honors. This is indeed a very great victory for the Successful Incubator, and it looks very much as if some pretty close competition for honors will be the result of the exhibits of the shows that are to be held at other places. The Des Moines Incubator Co., have recently issued their annual book—a complete treatise on poultry, and it will be sent to any one for ten cents in stamps.

A Word for Bean.

To the Poultry Herald.

Anoka County Poultry Association's first annual exhibition has passed and gone. It was a success, and the fanciers of this district feel that they have been profited by it in more ways than one. Too much cannot be said in praise of the efforts of President Bean, who contributed in every way to benefit and bring up the standard of the show. He sent his valuable buffs to the exhibit, which occupied one entire side of the hall, and at almost any time during the show you could see him with his long linen duster and one of his high scoring pets under his arm which had taken honors by Felch, Butterfield, etc. Indeed our president became such an enthusiast over his chosen varieties that the people around here say there is a buff under color growing all over his body. But when one is offered seventy five dollars for a single bird, as has been proffered Mr. Bean for one of his Cochin hens since our exhibition, we don't wonder that he takes to gold color

E. L. CURIAL, Secretary.

BUFF WYANDOTTES.

BY P. D. WINE, Aurelia, Iowa.

As many articles have been lately written about this grand new breed, I would like to give my experience with them.

Three years ago, while breeding Light Brahmas and not getting satisfactory results from them, I was struck with the Buff fever, and in looking over the different buff breeds finally concluded that I would try the Buff Wyandottes. So I sent to Mr. Thelander, Wisconsin, for three sittings of eggs, and O. E. Thiem, Iowa, for two sittings. From these five sittings I succeeded in raising to maturity about forty pullets and cockerels, but oh, my, such a mongrel looking lot of chickens. I had almost all shades of buff from almost pure white to the darkest cinnamon, and, worse than all, a number of them had feathers on their legs. But I had a few pullets that I thought very fine. These pullets I mated the next year to the best cockerel I had. From this mating were raised some very fine birds, in fact my whole flock was at least fifty per cent better than the previous year, and as they proved to be the very best of winter layers, I concluded to keep them. There are as fine specimens of this breed in my yards to-day as can be seen anywhere. One of my last year's cockerels won 1st at St Louis this winter. They are beginning to breed quite true to color, and with a year or two more of careful selection and judicious mating they promise to breed as true to standard requirements as the Light Brahmas or the Plymouth Rocks. And as winter layers, in my hands they have proved far ahead of either of the breeds just mentioned. My April and May hatched pullets usually begin laying early in November, and keep it up all winter no matter how cold the weather. Have had them to lay day after day with the thermometer from ten to twenty degrees below zero, and I have never had a hen or pullet with a frosted comb.

As a general purpose breed it is my opinion that there is nothing better, especially for the cold northwest, their low, rocker combs being almost frost proof in any kind of a decently built poultry house. I like them so well as to have discarded every other breed, and will devote all my spare time to them in future. I expect to raise some

birds this season that will make my competitors hustle for the ribbon at the poultry shows next winter.

There is no prettier sight than a flock of these fine birds with their buff plumage, bright red wattles, low rocker combs, and clean yellow legs. Any lover of fine fowls cannot help but admire them. I do not claim they are the best breed, but to me there is none better.

As my method of feeding for winter eggs differs materially from that usually recommended, I have the permission of the editor to describe it, together with some of the results, in the next issue of the MESSENGER.

The Last Thing is a Drink.

Be sure the fowls have all the water they want to drink just before going to roost at night. Laying hens require a great deal of water, and even when it has been before them the greater part of the day, they appear to have a craving for a hearty drink after they have taken the last meal. We have often seen them refuse water at four o'clock in the afternoon, and an hour and a half later, after they had had their supper, stand at the trough and drink as though they were half dead with thirst.

Feed Cut Bone Unmixed.

Those who make a practice of feeding cut bone find that they have the best results when it is placed before the hens unmixed with other food. The hens can easily be made to consume more of it than is good for them. It is best to let them be the judge as to when they have had enough. The observant poultryman will not mistake the signs by which they make known that fact.

What a Lot of Eggs

the hens lay when fed on Green Cut Bone: With a dozen hens

**MANN'S****Green****Bone Cutter**

Will pay for itself in a short time in the increase of eggs.

**Five Dollars buys one**

SENT ON TRIAL.

180 Highest Awards Received.

Catalogue free if you mention this paper.

F. W. MANN CO.
MILFORD, MASS**Buff Wyandottes**

EXCLUSIVELY.

Three Grand Pens

Of the best laying strains in existence. Eggs \$2 per 13, three settings for \$5. No further discount.

MY BIRDS WIN

In the hands of customers. Read what one of them says:

Albion, Illinois.

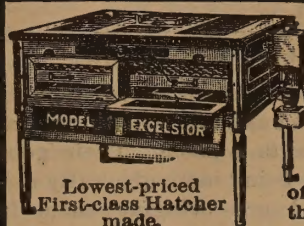
The cockerel arrived all o. k. Don't think I could have found a bird anywhere to suit me any better. Sent him over to St. Louis, won 1st.

Yours truly,

S. N. WEAVER.

Send in your orders early and I will please you.

P. D. WINE, Aurelia, Iowa.



Lowest-priced
First-class Hatcher
made.

Hatch Chickens by Steam

WITH THE MODEL

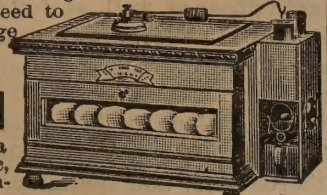
EXCELSIOR Incubator

Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other Hatcher.

THE WOODEN HEN

the most efficient incubator for raising poultry on a small scale ever invented. A perfect hatcher-automatic, self-regulating, thoroughly constructed, fully guaranteed. 28 egg capacity. Catalog free.

Patentee and
GEO. H. STAHL, Sole Manufacturer, 114 to 122 S. 6th St., QUINCY, ILL.



CROSS BREEDING.

Circumstances are seldom of such a nature that it will be to the advantage of the poultry keeper to resort to cross-breeding in preference to keeping full bloods. When one does this he makes the first step in the direction of mongrelism, and not once in a dozen times does he stop with the original cross. Of course there is no danger of anything of this kind with a well informed and careful poultryman who is fully conscious of the dangers of such a proceeding, and makes the cross only with a view to cautious experimentation.

But the common run of poultrymen will do best to keep clear of the cross-breeds. If the qualities which they are seeking are not wholly non-existent, they can be found in some of the full bloods, and in the end the full bloods will be much more satisfactory.

Perhaps there is some foundation for the claim that the cross-breeds will lay more eggs than the full-bloods. In our own experience we have failed to demonstrate the truth of this claim, though we have experimented to some extent with what has often been recommended as the very best cross which can be made if the object is to secure extraordinary layers. But we do not dispute the assertion—we would have to have a much more extended experience before we would feel justified in doing that. However, if all that has been claimed in this particular is true, with us it fails to outweigh such objections as we have above named, and others which will occur to the mind of those who have had much to do with poultry.

In all cases where our advice is sought we shall say keep thorough-breeds. Never for a moment entertain a thought of keeping anything else. There are practical advantages in good looks. No poultryman will feel the same pride in a flock which pleases the eye and one which does not, and he will not experience the same pleasure in his attentions to them. Cross-breeds cannot appear as well as full-bloods—their lack of uniformity if nothing else must prevent it. And the true lover of fine poultry will never admit them to as warm a place in his affections as full-bloods. They are the mules of the feathered race, and the mule, though admittedly a useful and serviceable animal, possessing certain good qualities not found in the same degree in any

other creature, is after all a mule. In reality the mule is a perfectly respectable animal, but the men who are proud of the reputation they have won as breeders, have not been breeders of mules.

THE BROODER.

It is not every one who would like to own an incubator that can afford it, and a large proportion of the people who purchase these machines are disappointed with them at the start. There is something to learn in order to know how to run successfully even the best incubator. It takes some experience in order to get "the hang of it." But the incubator is all right. We have never met with a person who had learned the secret of its management that could be persuaded to dispense with it and go back to nature's method of hatching the chicks. We should advise our readers who purpose hatching out anything over 200 chicks to get an incubator if they have the means at hand for so doing. If not, get a brooder anyhow. Make one, if you cannot afford to buy, but you will find the home made affair much less satisfactory than the machines that are produced by the manufactories. We do not wish to convey the impression that there is no difficulty attending the brooding of chicks. But they are difficulties which a person of ordinary perseverance will soon get the better of. And the brooder is such a saving of time and trouble that we want all our readers to have the benefit of it. You can talk about the motherly instincts of the hen, the need of going according to nature, and all that sort of thing, but the fact of the business is, that when it comes to rearing chicks, the old hen isn't in it as compared to a good brooder in the hands of one who understands how to run it.

Booming the Wyandotte.

Just at present the Wyandotte family appears to be enjoying something distantly related to a boom. Their good qualities are being more generally recognized, and are bringing them in higher favor, particularly in the north, than any of the general purpose breeds. He who possesses a flock of young, thrifty Wyandottes, can rest assured that if he has not the best thing in the way of poultry which can be had, he has something very near to it.

There is no known cure for the "hen fever" in its worst form but a good dose of experience.

Books For Fanciers.**Artificial Incubation and Brooding.**

The latest work on the subject; well edited, bound and profusely illustrated. Price..... \$1.00

Five Hundred Questions and Answers

On poultry raising, New edition, just out. "It's a mine of information." Price..... .25

The A B C of Poultry Culture.

A work growing out of 25 years experience. Indispensable to the amateur. It is original and practical. Price .25

Low Cost Poultry Houses.

This Book of plans, specifications and descriptions tells how to build them. Price..... .25

The Poultry Architect.

This book illustrates 117 designs and plans of poultry houses, coops, fences, roosts, nest boxes, feed troughs and other necessities for the poultry yard. Price..... .25

Egg Record and Account Book.

The greatest aid yet gotten up for keeping a strict record and account of the poultry business. Price..... .25

All About Broilers.

(M. K. Boyer). A complete and practical compendium, giving the methods of successful broiler raisers in Ham-monton, N. J. Price..... .25

Profitable Poultry Farming.

(M. K. Boyer). A practical little book of interest to market poultrymen. Price25

Catalogue of poultry supplies, books, &c., for a 2-cent stamp.

W. W. CLOUGH,
Medway, Mass.

Some Women

Wear skirts that sag in spite of pins and belts.

The Alpine**Skirt Retainer**

Remedies all that. It can readily be applied to any costume. It holds the skirt and blouse in position, prevents exposure of underskirt, and is simple and inexpensive. For sale by all leading dry goods dealers, or for 10 cents in stamps, we will mail you a sample from the factory. Address

Alpine MFG Company,
Pittston, Pa.

WHAT KIND OF ROOST?

BY M. PARROTT.

The subject of the "best kind of roosts," has about been worn threadbare, but as I have an opinion of my own based upon actual experience, I would like to give it to the public through the columns of the MESSENGER.

I do not believe in the level, low down roosts advocated by so many. The low down roost does not satisfy the instinct of fowls. Proof of this is seen in the fact that they will always seek the highest possible point to "while away the sleepy hours," and we believe a satisfied feeling and "contentment of mind" has considerable to do with the contents of the egg basket.

Neither do I approve of roosts elevated so high that the fowls will injure their feet and bodies in flying down to the floor. I am for the happy medium—neither too high nor too low—say about one foot in front to four at back, in spanning a space of ten feet. This style of roost has many advantages. Being low down in front the fowls can easily get upon it, and being slightly elevated at back and hinged to the wall, it can be easily swung up and fastened overhead enabling one to stand in a nearly upright position while cleaning out the house.

I find it quite important to keep the hens off the roosts in day time. By so doing they are kept at work in the litter of the floor the greater part of the time. Otherwise they will eat their warm mash, clamber upon the roost and stay there till you throw down the corn for their supper. Such a roost as has been described can be hung up after the fowls have had their breakfast, and lowered again in the evening, thus obliging them to stay down in the scratching pen where they will surely work, and if you can only get them to work, feed them half way right, and keep them comfortably warm, they will do the rest, and your balance will be on the right side of the ledger.

While costly buildings and working capital are both an advantage to the person who undertakes to make his living by keeping poultry, he does not stand in need of either half as much as he does of a lot of patience and hard common sense.

Really, now, don't you think 12 numbers of the MESSENGER worth what we ask for them—25 cents?

Editor MESSENGER:—Can you tell me a sure way of preventing my hens from dropping their eggs upon the floor of the poultry house and scratching pen? They make me much trouble in this way, as many of the eggs get covered up in the straw, and I do not find them till after they are frozen.

H. D. MERSEY.

Adrian, Minnesota.

We cannot. We have had no little trouble of the same kind to contend with in our own flocks. The use of nest eggs will be found to be a partial remedy, but this cannot be wholly depended upon. The old belief that nest eggs induced laying is exploded, but it is a well proven fact that they do have an influence in the way of inducing the hens to make use of the nest in which they have been placed in preference to one which is empty. This can hardly have escaped the notice of any poultryman of experience. In a house furnished with half a dozen nest boxes, all empty but one, and that one containing a nest egg, it will be found that the hens will avoid as far as possible the empty boxes, and seek the one in which they see the egg.

If it can be found out which of the hens are laying on the floor, good results will sometimes follow their removal to another coop where the surroundings are all new to them.

A hen is the victim of habit, to a greater extent, perhaps, than other creatures of greater intelligence. Having selected a certain spot on the floor for a nest, and made use of it a few times, she cannot be easily persuaded to lay anywhere else so long as she remains in that coop. When placed in new quarters the habit is broken up for somewhat the same reasons that a hen is cured of her broodiness by the same kind of a change.

If in spite of all that can be done to prevent it, a hen should persist in laying on the floor, we should not hesitate to kill her. And we wouldn't waste much time in trying to convince her of the error of her ways either. If this is not done the chances are three to one that the owner will soon find himself in possession of a lot of egg-eating hens, and the fellow who has once been compelled to daily witness that sort of a circus in his poultry house, will not want to take any unnecessary risks in that direction in future.

Keep it in mind that we sell as good a sewing machine as is made for \$17.50.

Anyone wishing to become proficient in the handling of poultry should send ten cents in stamps to the Des Moines Incubator Co., Des Moines, Iowa, for their book on practical poultry keeping

SIMPLEX HATCHER & BROODER
combined. The most Perfect Incubator Made. Hatches every egg that a hen could hatch; Regulates itself automatically; Reduces the cost of poultry raising to a minimum. Send for Illus. Catalogue. Simplex Manuf'g Co., Quincy, Ill.



Good Birds at Rock Bottom Prices.

Pure bred Black Langshans of both sexes. Cockerels \$1 each, pullets 50 cents. Also Light Brahma cockerels at same price. No better stock in Iowa. MRS. J. A. BOYNTON, Clarion, Wright county, Iowa.

Frederick E. Coleman,
Manchester Green, Conn.
—BREEDER OF—

Barred Plymouth Rocks
C. W. Black Polish.

Eggs for hatching \$1.25 per 13, \$2.00 per 26. A year's subscription to the MESSENGER with every order if you mention paper. Good stock and fair play. Write for prices of stock.

RUTHERFORD RROS.

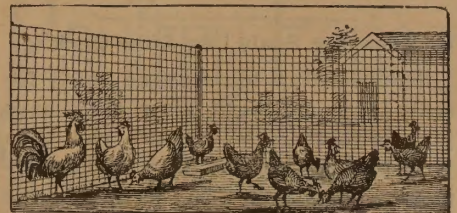
—BREEDERS OF—

* **White Wonders.**

The hardiest of all fowls, and the best general purpose breed for the north. AURELIA, IOWA.

LADIES Make big money, quick sales and lasting customers selling our Mackintosh skirts and other new goods. Be first to sell them. Fresh territory. Catalogue free.

LADIES SUPPLY CO., 3118, Forest Ave., Chicago



CABLED POULTRY AND GARDEN FENCE,
Manufactured by
DEKALB FENCE CO., DEKALB, ILL.

CORN FOR LAYING HENS.

We insist upon it that corn is a good feed for laying hens. We know that some of the readers of the MESSENGER will differ with us on this point, and these people, too, in a general way may know just as much about poultry keeping as we do, and perhaps more. But the MESSENGER is committed to the policy of allowing everyone to have his say about things of this nature, and our say is that this opposition to the use of corn is mainly the effect of prejudice. The widespread belief that it is injurious when fed with judgment is not founded on fact.

The most of those who are so violently opposed to corn are people who have some time or other been obliged to face the loss and disappointment accruing from a yardful of overfat hens. Corn is what put the hens in that condition, and these people know it. Hence they conclude that as layers overfat hens are no better than dead hens, and as corn is responsible for the overfatness, it necessarily follows that corn is a bad thing for hens.

These people have simply fed too much corn. The results would be nearly as bad if they had fed a disproportionate amount of almost anything else. When corn is given in reasonable quantity, and as a part of a diversified system of feeding, it will not lead to any bad results. We could not be persuaded to discontinue our practice of giving corn at night after the hens have been feeding upon the smaller grains which they have dug out of the litter of the scratching pen during the day.

Perhaps some one will ask what proportion of the grain ration can be safely made to consist of corn. If we were feeding a quart of grain a day to ten hens—and we would on no account go beyond that—one-third of it would be shelled corn. We regard the risks as next to nothing when corn is fed in this amount to hens that are made to work hard for all that they get to eat.

Treat for Scaly Leg After Dark.

The best time to treat the fowls for scaly leg is at night after they have gone to roost. The mixture can then be applied to most of them without removing them from the perch, and the excitement of catching each one of them and holding it during the operation is avoided. One thing to be re-

membered, however, in following out this plan is to make the mixture of kerosene and lard weaker than would be deemed necessary if the application were to be made during the day. Serious leg troubles have been caused by applying the pure or only slightly diluted kerosene, when no bad effects followed the use of the same mixture during the day. Of course the fowls settle down on the perches as soon as the owner withdraws from the house, and the legs being covered by the feathers, evaporation is prevented to a great extent, and the legs thereby get a severer scalding than they would receive if the birds were moving about on their feet.

Old Hens, or Pullets.

People will have their own opinions concerning the comparative merits of pullets and old hens. It is very generally admitted that the pullets will lay the most eggs, but the evidence seems to be equally strong that the eggs of the hens will produce stronger and more vigorous chicks. Solely on this account we make it a rule to keep one pen of one and two year old hens over winter. Whether our flock is thereby improved in health and vigor, we are really not able to say. On this point we have simply been content to accept the testimony of experienced breeders that such results would follow, and have not taken note of any difference between such chicks and those hatched from the eggs of pullets. But it appears probable that the progeny of the mature fowls would possess the better constitution. We have allowed ourselves to believe this without asking for proof of the fact.

The very worst method of feeding is that which permits the hens to stand and fill themselves without scarcely moving from their tracks. The manner in which the hens are fed is fully as important as the feed itself.

OUR SEWING MACHINE.

The sewing machine which is shown on last page of the MESSENGER cover has so far given perfect satisfaction to every purchaser. Every one who has ordered it, so far as heard from, is not only pleased with it, but is most agreeably surprised at getting such a high grade machine for so little money.

If we could convince people of the

truth in regard to this machine, the factory would hardly be able to make them fast enough to fill our orders. People would not pay from thirty to fifty dollars for a sewing machine if they knew to a certainty that they could get one just as good for \$17.50. Though we give prospective buyers the privilege of trying this machine in their own homes, and bind ourselves to take it back if in practical working qualities it does not prove the equal of the best machine on the market, still many of those who write to us apparently cannot get rid of the idea that there is some trick about it. The terms and conditions are all right, but they think there must be a string to it somewhere which they don't see. This is one of the cases where peoples' suspicions are costly. It would be more to their advantage to dismiss them than it would be to our own, as the saving to them would be several times greater than the profit which would accrue to us from the sale of a machine.

The MESSENGER is a permanent institution if it continues to make itself worthy of public support, and this it will do. It is looking forward to a prosperous future which it could ill afford to sacrifice for the few dollars which might come to it as the result of crooked work in connection with the sale of a few hundred sewing machines. All moral considerations aside, "the game would not pay for the candle."

The following testimonials are by people who live right at the home of the MESSENGER:

Aurelia, Iowa, Dec., 28, 1895.

The Messenger Co,

Aurelia, Iowa,

Gentlemen:—I am entirely satisfied with the sewing machine that you sold me for \$17.50. It does every kind of work that a good sewing machine can do, and is easy running and almost noiseless. I do not see how I could gain anything by trading it for the best \$50 machine on the market.

MISS ARA LONGAKER.

Aurelia, Iowa, Jan., 12, 1896.

The Messenger Co.,

Aurelia, Iowa.

The sewing machine which I bought of you some time ago is in regular use, and is doing its work as well as any of the high priced machines that I know of. It is certainly all that you claim for it.

MRS. ALBERT SIEGEL.

KNOWS HIS BUSINESS.

Half-fledged poultrymen are very apt to imagine that P. H. Jacobs, editor of the Poultry-Keeper, is somewhat cranky on the subject of feeding poultry. They cannot bring themselves to believe in his method of "starving" hens in order to get good results from them as layers. But as time goes on, and experience accumulates, these people begin to suspicion that perhaps after all Mr. Jacobs is not so far out of the way in his ideas on this subject as they once believed. And when they have been in the business ten years nine-tenths of them will be feeding just about as this veteran poultryman recommends, and are dreadful sorry that they didn't do so from the beginning.

Mr. Jacobs attributes a large proportion of the troubles which afflict the denizens of the poultry yard to overfeeding. The ill success which so many good feeders meet with in getting eggs in winter he also charges to the same cause. He is continually urging his readers to keep clear of the dangers of overfeeding, and evidently believes that this is the most costly mistake that the amateur poultryman is liable to make.

We often hear people say that they feed their hens all they will eat—that the hens are fat and they don't want them to be any other way. These people tell us, too, that they get plenty of eggs, and have demonstrated in their own experience that all this talk about getting hens too fat to lay is simply a notion. When apparently truthful people tell us this we do not know what to think. We can only sit and ponder. We are very sure that we could not feed hens in that manner and get eggs, and there is no one among our personal acquaintances who can do it.

Our best results in the way of eggs are obtained when we keep close to the directions laid down by Mr. Jacobs for feeding laying hens. We can well remember when we thought him cranky on this point, and said that nothing could induce us to deny our hens anything which they seemed to want. And the grateful biddies repaid the kindness by getting as fat and lazy as a stall fed ox, and refused to contribute a single egg in payment of their board. All this while Mr. Jacobs was telling us that that sort of kindness was not any kindness at all either to the hens or

ourselves. But it took us a long time to be convinced that he knew what he was talking about. We write this in the hope that those of our readers who are in a position to be benefitted by such a talk, may be induced to exercise better judgment in the matter than we did.

ABOUT RANGE.

Editor MESSENGER:

I have a small town lot, 40x120 feet, half of which I can spare for a poultry house and yard. A neighbor tells me the space is too small—that hens must have a range or they will not lay. What is your opinion about it? Is it a fact that say a dozen hens will not have room enough if kept on this space?

B. C. WILSON.

Sioux City, Iowa.

We are mighty glad that our friend has asked us this question. Perhaps it may be the means of us finding out something which we don't know. In reply we shall say that a dozen hens of any of the medium sized breeds should do well in a yard of that size, provided, of course, their needs are properly looked after. It is a mistake to suppose that hens of this class must be allowed to roam over a large territory in order to lay well. The most successful poultrymen purposely restrict their range for the reason that they can thus secure more eggs from them than by allowing them to run at large.

But if it is the desire of this subscriber to keep Leghorns, Hamburgs, or any of the small, non-setting breeds, we should advise him not to attempt it on so small a space. Admirers of those breeds have assured us that they will stand confinement quite as well as the larger fowls. We have heard them say that Leghorns can be kept all winter long inside the poultry house, and made to lay well the whole time. When we try to keep Leghorns in that way they soon take on a bedraggled appearance, and in a little while go all to pieces. There is evidently a know how to it which we have never been able to catch on to. Will some reader who has gotten the best of the difficulties which have proven too much for us, tell us how they do it.

High Priced Leghorns.

The well known breeder of Buff Leghorns, George S. Barnes, of Battle Creek, Michigan, an advertiser in this paper, recently shipped 17 birds to California for which he received \$215. Those people who believe that a chicken is a chicken, and ought to sell for about a quarter, would probably meet with some difficulty in making a deal for some of Mr. Barnes' Buff Leghorns.

Five copies of the MESSENGER a year for one dollar.

INCUBATORS

WE WARRANT

THE RELIABLE



132
Yards
High
Class
Fowls

SELF-REGULATING.

To hatch 80 per cent of the fresh and fertile eggs. Hundreds of recent testimonials! Have this year (1896) issued our Eleventh Annual Poultry Guide and Combined Catalogue in one valuable book.

PROFITS IN POULTRY!

This 148-page, fully illustrated Poultry Guide tells you about profits in poultry; about hatching eggs with machines; about brooding chicks without hens. We have for sale sixteen popular kinds of thoroughbred fowls; also full line of Poultry Supplies—anything you want. Price of Guide, 10 cents in stamps—worth one dollar. Address, RELIABLE INCUBATOR AND BROODER CO., Quincy, Ill.



The "WINONA BRAND"

Poultry Fence

Is held in the highest favor wherever used.

The Only Practical Portable Fence Made.

Send for full particulars and prices to the

WINONA FENCE CO.

Sole and only manufacturers, WINONA, MINN.

WILL WANT TO EXCHANGE.

The man who poked fun at you, and called you something which sounded a good deal like a fool, for paying three or five dollars for a setting of eggs last spring, will be nosing around trying to find out where you market your eggs along in April or May, and he will have some of them if he can get them for about ten cents a dozen. If he cannot get hold of any of them in that way he may be just cheeky enough to come over to your place and ask you to exchange a few settings of eggs with him. He will tell you that he is perfectly satisfied with his own fowls, and has no idea that he can get anything better, but he understands the importance of introducing fresh blood into the flock, and that is his only reason for requesting an exchange of eggs. This fellow is a scrub, like his fowls, and you ought to know how to treat scrubs. Give away as many eggs as you have a mind to, or as you can afford to, but don't give them to a creature of this description. He is not a worthy object for you to exercise your charity upon.

If one has eggs to market, and knows of any safe method of treating them by which the germ will be destroyed without impairing their wholesomeness or injury to their keeping qualities, he is fully justified in resorting to it whenever he has reasons for believing that a person such as we have been talking about is watching for an opportunity to get possession of them for almost nothing. When it is found out that the eggs have been "doctored" you may expect to hear that some pretty hard things have been said about you. But you needn't mind that, since the person who thus reviles you has shown himself capable of doing something which is scarcely a degree removed from stealing. It is passing strange though how the virtue of such a person looms up when he is frustrated in his attempt to commit an act of which a man made of a very common kind of mud ought to be ashamed.

Where Fat Hens Are Wanted.

Those who want to hatch out early chicks often experience difficulty in getting broody hens. Two or three months later than this the broody hens are the bother of the poultryman's life, but they are usually very scarce early in the spring. If the hens have been

steady layers all winter they will mostly be ready for setting the first warm spell in March; but if not, they will show no inclination of the kind until they have laid out a clutch of eggs. In either case the matter can be hurried somewhat by heavy feeding. A broody hen is nearly always a fat hen. A hen that is scantily fed is not likely to become broody even though the amount of food is sufficient to keep her in a fairly good laying condition. This storing up of fat is a provision of nature for her support in part during the three weeks of irregular and uncertain feeding. By placing a number of hens in a pen by themselves, and feeding them liberally, one can soon bring about the desired state of broodiness.

Market In March.

Poultry usually brings a better price in March than any other time during the year. Those who have fully matured fowls in good condition that they do not want to keep over summer had better make their arrangements to dispose of them some time next month. Take a little time to look around and find a buyer. If you intend to do your own shipping, send to a large city in preference to a small one, and do the business of selling through some reputable commission merchant. You can always find a trustworthy commission merchant in a large city, but you cannot always find such an one in a city of the third or fourth class. In places of this size the robber commission merchant is very hungry, and steals with a boldness which would scarcely be attempted any place else. We have several times been held up by this sort of a commission merchant, and we have lost all respect for him.

After one has fixed upon a firm to sell to, he should get instructions from it as to the best mode of dressing the fowls. These men are familiar with the demands of their market, and it will always pay to consult them as to the manner in which the stock should be prepared for shipment.

The Cost Don't Count.

The food which brings the eggs is the food to give the flock—the cost is not to be considered. The most expensive feeding is that which prevails on so many farms; a full grain ration which brings no eggs. No selection of food could be made which would entail a

greater expense than this method of feeding.



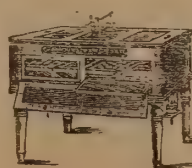
Have you received a copy of

My '96 Catalogue?

If not, write for one, for you need it if you are interested in good fowls.

C. D. BATES,
Au Sable, Michigan.

Incubator ON TRIAL.



Try it before you buy it
Highest Award
World's Fair.
Plans of Brooders,
Houses, etc., 25 cts.
Judge of Incubators
at World's Fair

says: "If I were going to buy for myself I would give the Von Culin the preference." Book Incubation, 5 cts. Von Culin Incubator Co, Delaware City, Del.

Standard Buff LEGHORNS

I want every person interested in this popular and beautiful breed to send for our large, 4-page '95 circular free, stamp accepted. I have one of the finest flocks, and prize winners, scoring 94½ by Felch to 93½ by Drevenstedt. Also Black Javas and Columbian Wyandottes. Get my circular sure.

Geo. S. Barnes,
Battle Creek, Michigan.



SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR

Our magnificent new catalogue giving full information regarding artificial Hatching & Brooding and treatise on poultry raising sent for 4c stamps. Circular free.

Write now.
Des Moines
Incubator Co.
Box 40 Des Moines, Ia

T. C. CREPPS,
Breeder of

Poland-China Swine.



No better stock anywhere. Write for description and prices.

T. C. CREPPS, Aurelia, Iowa

Notes About Chickens and Fruits, And Answers to Queries.

Address all communications for this department to O. P. Greer, Bourbon, Indiana, and mention the MESSENGER.

Health cannot long be enjoyed by any animal that is deprived of the direct rays of the sun. The same with vegetable life. Notice the pale sickly looking plants that are kept in a cellar or a dark room. Or notice a brood of chickens after a protracted spell of rainy weather—depressed in spirits, languid and weak. Sunshine is one of the greatest of health givers, infusing life and vigor into all animals and vegetables. Provide your fowls with a good sun bath in winter by placing windows on the south and east sides of the poultry house, and let them come down to the floor.

It requires experience in the poultry business to obtain big results. It is the same in any business.

Don't try to keep more fowls than you can accommodate; and you had better keep only one variety at the same place.

Good, sharp grit is a necessity to fowls. Have you supplied it?

Hens' feed should be seasoned. Put in some pepper, but very little salt.

The time of year will soon be here for the shipping of eggs, and a few suggestions in that line will not come amiss for those inexperienced in the packing of eggs for shipment. In the first place do not ship eggs that are over one week old, and it would be better still if they were not more than three days old. Old eggs do not hatch well, and it would be an imposition to send such eggs to anybody, as they would not be worth the express charges. If you have any conscience don't send old eggs to your customers. Be sure the eggs are fresh and properly packed and they can be safely sent to any part of the United States with a fair hatch guaranteed. Sometimes eggs are carelessly and roughly handled by expressmen during transit, and no matter how well packed are smashed.

D. S. writes to know how he can select and judge his own birds, Barred Plymouth Rocks. He has stock from a breeder that claims to have good birds. He has never attended a regular poultry show, and writes to know in partic-

ular how to cut for defects in symmetry. To answer this question in full would require considerable space. I will try in as brief a way as possible to give our friend a little light on this point. In the first place you should get a copy of the American Standard of Perfection, study well the description, disqualification, &c., of the Barred Plymouth Rocks. The typical shape can best be learned by studying some of the cuts made by Sewell and other good artists. The standard valuation of symmetry is eight points. Any variation of the typical shape must be deducted as it deserves. You will notice by the Standard that 29 points are also given for shape, which by many breeders is considered unjust. They believe that shape and symmetry are one and the same thing. While the standard has a scale of points for shape of head, neck, back, breast, body, fluff, wings and tail, it has none for comb, wattles, earlobes, legs and toes, which of course would have to be noticed under symmetry. How to cut for other defects in Barred Plymouth Rocks you can best learn by attending some of the best poultry shows while the experts are judging, and be sure to keep your eyes and ears wide open. Birds that are disqualified by the standard are not worthy of a score and should not be used as breeders—they are better for noodles. You must learn if your birds are eligible to a score. There is a glossary in the standard which will explain all the technical terms such as vulture hock, squirrel tail, etc., and many other things that you should understand before undertaking to score even your own fowls. Do not breed any birds that have a smutty, dark color. Select birds that are distinctly and evenly barred, barring to show clear in to the skin, pure yellow legs and beak, or as little dark shading as possible. Use no bird showing any bronze tinge or any brassy color. It requires years of experience and practice to become familiar with the Standard and all the varieties therein mentioned. It is not strange that many mistakes occur. To judge a bird carefully and properly as it should be done requires more time than is usually allotted to a judge at most of the shows, and this is one reason why so many mistakes occur, and exhibitors become dissatisfied. Theories are good, but facts founded on truthfulness are better.

Barred Plymouth Rocks, AND Black Langshans.

Fine Stock for Little Money
Choice cockerals for sale of both breeds at \$1.00 each. Plymouth Rock pullets at 75 cents each. My stock is very fine. It will please you.

M. PARROTT,
Aurelia, Iowa.

**Here Again! LARGER
Than Ever!
Over 100 Pages**

Giving description of 85 choice

Pure Breeds

Of Poultry and prices of poultry. Prices of poultry in pairs and trios, and prices of eggs per sitting.

Symptoms and Cure

For all Known Poultry Diseases.

All kinds of Poultry Supplies at very low prices. This large book sent to any address for 15 cents.

E. H. RODHAM, Darlington, Wis.

"Bean's Buffs"
Won 50 premiums

At Anoka December 20, to 25, 1895, Holden, Judge, and are not striving for business on the record of birds long dead and gone.

75 Fine Birds for Sale. 75

At reasonable prices. Try us. A full line of

Poultry Supplies

And Specialties of all kinds at Rock Bottom Prices. Terms cash. Circular and price list free if you mention the MESSENGER.

Anoka Buff Poultry Yards.
Lock Box 72, ANOKA, MINN.

The Poultry Messenger.

AND

Western Fruit-Grower.

Published the first of every month by
The Messenger Company,
AURELIA, IOWA.

Subscription Price, 25 Cents per Year

ADVERTISING RATES.--Sixty Cents per
line, each insertion.

BREEDERS' CARDS.

Thirty words three months for seventy-five cents.

The MESSENGER tries to tell what it knows about poultry keeping. Sometimes it tells what it don't know. We have on occasions firmly believed a thing to be so and so, and afterward found out that we were mistaken. And as often as this same thing happens we shall not hesitate to "take it back." If we have taught that a certain prescribed way was the right way, and discover later on that we have been in error, we shall not lose any time in getting ourself in shape to talk in opposition to our former teachings. This want of consistency, if there are those who choose to see it in that light, shall not trouble us. We look at it from a different point of view and call it by another name. We suffer from shortsightedness at times, and several of our acquaintances are afflicted in the same way. As we plod along through life we are constantly picking up new facts and are getting new light on the things about which we feel the most concern, and this sometimes impels us to a change of opinion, and makes us contradict ourself. People who have nothing more to learn about poultry-keeping, who have got it all down fine, have no occasion to subject themselves to the charge of this kind of inconsistency. But as for ourself, though we have been in school quite a spell, we have never yet even had a thought of applying for a place in the graduating class.

It takes a good deal of enthusiasm to enable one to endure the odor which sometimes pervades the room in which a poultry show is being held. The writer, chicken crank that he is, has been to poultry shows where the smell was so bad as to make him feel like fleeing to the pig pen for a breath of

fresh air. He has also taken note of the actions of people who were not chicken cranks, but who came to the show and paid their quarter to see the exhibition as they would to see any other curiosity. We have observed the pained expression which came over the faces of these people as soon as the door closed behind them, and have felt something like pain ourself at seeing their precipitate retreat from the room before they had inspected a quarter of the things which were to be seen. In talking with the managers of this same show we found they were discouraged over the small door receipts, and were surprised that the outside public did not take more interest in what they supposed would be an attractive exhibition to them. They even threatened to punish this unappreciative public by disbanding the association and taking away from them this delectable entertainment in future. It is our humble opinion that those who allow the place of exhibition to become so extremely offensive to the nostrils of the visitors have a great deal to learn about conducting a poultry show.

The Inter-State Poultryman, of Tiffin, Ohio, speaks of the MESSENGER as "one of the best little poultry papers that comes to us," and the Poultry Tribune, of Freeport, Illinois, refers to it as "one of the meatiest of all our exchanges." It is very gratifying to us to have earned such favorable notice from the editors of two publications of such high standing as these. There is lots of encouragement in it.

Next to sending in a list of subscribers, the best service which a friend of a poultry paper can do the publishers is to send them names of poultry breeders. It is a kindly remembered subscriber who thinks to send a few names every time he communicates with the office.

Sometimes it does not pay as well to advertise in the big, extensively circulated poultry paper as in the small one. Mr. P. D. Wine, of this place, recently placed an advertisement in three poultry papers, one of them being the MESSENGER, and two others, each claiming a circulation of over 10,000. The purpose of the advertisement was to find a purchaser for a breeding pen of White Crested Black Polish. The MESSEN-

GER sold the chickens for him, the eastern purchaser distinctly stating that he saw the advertisement in this paper. Mr. Wine did not receive a single response from his advertisement in one of the other papers. And his advertising bill with us was less than one fourth what he had to pay the papers which in this case didn't seem to advertise. Our only object in referring to this is to show that taking into consideration the difference of rates, it pays about as well to advertise in a new paper which is put together in a respectable way as in the old well established journals. And one consoling feature about it is if you don't get any returns you are not much out of pocket.

Poultry judges would have to be more than human not to make mistakes in connection with the difficult duties which they are required to perform at the shows. Judging poultry is just what the term implies—the exercise of individual judgment with respect to the bird to be scored. Those who demand an exact agreement of the score cards issued by two or more judges are demanding an impossibility. Though the men may be equally honest and competent, they will not see things in exactly the same light. The variation of the score cards is simply the evidence of a difference of opinion. There is no remedy for this, and none will ever be found. The nearest approach to it will be the more general employment of specialty judges at the shows.

Strawberry Plants. FREE.

We have made arrangements with a reliable nurseryman of this state to supply us with a choice lot of strawberry plants which we propose to give to subscribers to the MESSENGER. To all sending in a subscription to the paper at the regular rate—25 cents—we will have mailed to them postpaid one dozen strawberry plants provided the subscribers want them and ask for them. The collection will consist of 8 Warfield and 4 Wilson, both splendid varieties. Extra plants in every package. These plants would cost forty cents if ordered of the nursery. Remember the MESSENGER one year and the plants for only 25 cents

THE FRUIT GROWER.

If one wishes to try the experiment of making a living by fruit growing, there is no need of him going away from this northwestern country to do it. It is not claimed that the prairie region of the west is a fruit growing country in the sense that California and parts of Michigan are; but both large and small fruits can be produced here in great variety and abundance. And there is a ready market for all that can be grown. An ordinary sized village will take all the fruit which the labor of half a score of men can produce, and will be glad to get it.

The fruit crop is not a dead certainty here nor is this the case anywhere. Failure of this crop, and of all crops, in fact, is liable to occur even in the most favored regions. We know of the terrible havoc which but a short while ago was committed by late frosts in the extreme south where the people believed themselves to be entirely safe from such a disaster. There is no more uncertainty attending the production of a crop of fruit here than in California, if the growing of the kinds which are adapted to the locality and in greatest demand, is attempted.

This writer knows of \$80.00 worth of small fruit being sold off of two small village lots in a northwestern Iowa town last season. And all the labor of growing and picking the berries was done by a woman with all the cares of a household on her hands besides. This woman says she knows if she were a man and had the time at her disposal for doing the work she could easily make a thousand dollars a year growing small fruit. How many western farmers make this much clear money a year out of a quarter section of land?

The Cost.

Mr. R. M. Kellogg, of Ionia, Michigan, is probably as well posted as any one in the west as to the cost of growing small fruits. He is an extensive grower of fruits of all kinds, and is everywhere recognized as high authority on this subject, and he says that two cents a quart will pay for all the expense of growing a crop of strawberries, raspberries, currants or gooseberries; three cents for blackberries, and one-half cent a pound for grapes. This includes the purchase of the plants, and all labor of caring for them—everything, in fact,

but the picking. And to most purchasers the picking would not cost any more in time or effort than going to the grocery for them and paying for the crates in which they are sold.

It must be a very busy man, or one whose time is very valuable who can buy small fruits cheaper than he can raise them. It is not an uncommon thing to hear people say that it really does not pay one to grow berries for the use of his family, even though he has the ground for doing so. Mr. Kellogg's declaration with regard to the cost seems to effectually dispose of the matter.

There is another thing to be considered aside from the item of expense in the growing of these fruits for family use. If the fruits could be bought on the market for the same money which it cost to produce them in the home garden, the difference in quality would usually be sufficient to pay one well for growing them at home. Fruit which is offered on the market, as compared with that freshly picked from the vines, is always stale fruit. Berries especially lose a large part of their good qualities by standing even twenty-four hours after picking. People who are in the habit of having on their tables this kind of fruit, really do not know what good fruit is.

But let there be an end to the talk that people living on farms and in villages, or anywhere if they have ground for the purpose, can buy small fruits as cheaply as they can raise them. In many instances this is only an excuse to escape the labor of producing them.

Purified by Fire.

If possible select a spot for the strawberry bed somewhat remote from the buildings. The strawberry bed ought to be burned off once a year. This plan is now followed by the most successful growers in the country. Immediately after the crop is gathered the mower is run over the bed and the plants cut close to the ground. After allowing the leaves time to partly dry the bed is covered with straw, and when a favorable wind occurs fire is set to it and the whole burned over. After the burning it looks as if there was no life left in anything over which the fire passed, but in four or five days new shoots will appear on the stubs of the plants, and by fall the whole bed will be covered by an abundant growth of vigorous

plants, which would not have been obtained if the old tops had been left on the ground. The burning destroys countless insects, too, which would have preyed upon the plants. No one need have any fears about treating the strawberry bed in this way. This is no longer an experiment. It will prove a benefit in every instance.

MAPLE HILL

Fruit Farm!

1,000,000 Small Fruit Plants for 1896.

Strawberries a Specialty.

All plants dug from new beds, guaranteed true to name, and well rooted. Send for catalogue and price list.

Special Offer:—For \$1.00 received before April 1st we will send postpaid 50 Warfield, 50 Crescent, 50 Jessie, 50 Michaels Early strawberry plants, and 1 each of Gregg and Palmer black raspberry plants.

ELMER BRINTNALL,
Winthrop, Iowa.

EGGS

For hatching from high-scoring, thoroughbred S. C. Brown Leghorns, S. and Golden Wyandottes, B. Ply. Rocks and Mammouth Pekin Ducks, \$1.25 per 13.

Also very fine well rooted strawberry plants of the best varieties. Price, 50 cents per 100 plants. Everything first class. Write for new catalogue.

Box 732 R. F. NEUBERT, Mankato, Minn.

Pilot Rock NURSERIES

The best of everything in the line of nursery stock at

Hard Times Prices.

I am prepared to fill orders for fruit trees in any amount, blackberry raspberry and strawberry plants, EVERGREENS AND

FOREST TREES.

And, in fact, everything which can be supplied by any first-class nursery.

Write for Price List,

Or call at nursery two miles east, and two and a half miles south of Cherokee, Iowa. Address

PILOT ROCK NURSERIES,

Cherokee, Iowa.

They Call It Pruning.

What some people call pruning an apple tree is simply mangling it with a saw and hatchet, and subjecting it to such mutilation as to practically destroy it. Trees will stand that kind of treatment in some localities, but are never benefited by it. It is highly injurious in the northwest, and no experienced orchardist could be found who would recommend it. No larger pruning instrument should ever be taken into the orchard than a common strong bladed pocket knife. All the pruning which a tree will ever require can be done with this instrument during the first few years of its growth. What cannot be removed by means of it had better be left on.

Russian Plums.

Mr. D. Stienman, a well known Iowa fruit grower, delivers his opinion of the Russian plums as follows: "As to Russian plums. I would not take an orchard of ten acres, all in the best condition, with the land and all the profit that there would be in it, as a free gift under condition to take care of it and keep it up."

Many orchardists agree that the Longfield is the most profitable winter apple which can be grown in the northwest. It will stand more cold than the Oldenberg, but is more liable to be injured than the latter by hot winds.

Sun scald is supposed to be produced mostly in February and March. It is not too late in the winter to make some provision for the protection of trees which are yet standing fully exposed to the 2 o'clock sun. A very little work will do it.

The strawberry plants which we offer in connection with the MESSENGER will be taken from new beds which have never been fruited. Such plants are worth a dozen times over those taken from old worn out beds.

It hardly pays to attempt fruit growing on anything like a large scale without a spraying apparatus. And such an apparatus will pay for itself several times even when nothing more is undertaken than to supply the family with fruit. A good servicable sprayer can be had for a few dollars, and will come handy in other ways besides applying insecticides to fruit trees.

Nonpareil Poultry Yards:

CONLEY & CO.
Proprietors.
La Salle, Ill.

—BREEDERS OF—

Rose Comb Brown Leghorns, Rose and S. C. Minorcas, B. Langshans and Partridge Cochins,

Exhibition Stock a Specialty.

Pekin Ducks.**STOCK FOR SALE.**

Our Breeders are ALL exhibition stock. We can furnish you with what you want, if you want something first-class. Write us for description and prices.

A. L. BELEW, AURELIA,
Iowa,

◆◆◆BREEDER OF◆◆◆

BLACK LANGSHANS

Some choice young cockerals for sale at one dollar each.

**B. Plymouth Rocks.****EXCLUSIVELY.**

No world beaters, but nice, shapely, well colored stock, the equal of anything which can be obtained for practical purposes. Stock for sale after October 1st. Write for prices.

T. C. CREPPS, Aurelia, Iowa.

DO NOT DAM

AGE YOUR HANDS BUT USE A

PERFECTION **Dish Washer**

Best in the World! A Complete Success!

Every Washer guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or no sale. Simple, practical, durable and cheap. Should be in every home. Washes and polishes all the dishes of either large or small family in two minutes at one washing. Utterly impossible to break or chip a dish while being washed by the Perfection. A child of eight years operates it easily. No more chapped or soiled hands. No more scalded fingers or soiled clothing. By using the "PERFECTION" the drudgery of washing dishes is a thing of the past.

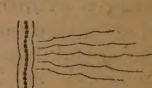
Demand is Universal. Sells at Sight. Price \$5.00.

AGENTS WANTED.

Perfection Manufacturing Company.

Englewood, Illinois.

644 63d Street

White Plymouth Rocks. 
ALFRED ANDREY, Aurelia, Iowa. **CHOICE STOCK**

Buff Plymouth Rocks

EXCLUSIVELY.

I am Breeding
Three Pens of Them.

PEN NUMBER ONE CONTAINS

Four Pullets scoring respectively 93, 93½, 94, 94½, winning everything at Illinois State Fair, Bloomington, and Illinois State Poultry Shows.

For utility and beauty the Buff is the Rock of them all. Mine are the original Coin Gold strain, and their score proves their standard value.

EGGS \$3.00 PER SETTING.

Get a setting and climb with us to the summit of glory on Plymouth Rock.

ISRAEL ROOT, Bloomington, Illinois.

Do You

Ever stop to think how few there are engaged in poultry keeping as a business who ever make a success of it? A fancier who has a flock of thoroughbreds as a hobby is successful if he only get a pleasure for his pains. He keeps hens. It is one thing to

Keep Hens

And another to make hens keep you. Sickness in the fowls and mortality among the broods causes many failures. These, traced to their source, would bring up among vermin. There's a breed of lice for all sizes and conditions of chickenhood to fowldom. which in addition to destroying life and vitality, worry their victims worse than the "Seven Years Itch;"

And Lice?

Must be kept at a distance. Lambert's "Death to Lice" is offered to you because it does the work quickly, cheaply and well; if it don't, send it back and get your money. It is to my interest to to make it as good as possible, and I do.

RETAIL PRICES:

5 oz. box postpaid 10 cents; 15-oz box 25 cents, postpaid 40 cts; 48-oz package 40 cents, postpaid \$1. 100-oz package, delivered to your Express Co. for \$1.

DEALERS SELL IT. SO DO WE, LOTS OF IT.

Pocket Book Pointers Sent Free.

D. J. LAMBERT, Apponaug, R. I.

IN THE FRONT RANK.

The Iowa Homestead, now in its fortieth year, still continues to occupy the front rank among the agricultural papers of the country. Its editorials are always interesting, practical and timely, and thousands of its readers unite in testifying that they save them many times the subscription price during the year. Its Sheep, Horticultural, Poultry, Veterinary and Dairy Departments are ably conducted and always full of useful, practical information in relation to these specialties, and its Home Department, teeming with a wealth of editorial suggestions and bright, crisp contributions, proves to be just what farmers' wives and daughters need to lighten their daily labor and brighten their daily lives. As an all round farm paper the Homestead has no superior, and its twenty-four ample pages each week contain something of interest and instruction for every member of the farmer's household. Send for free sample copies. Subscription price \$1 per year. Address, Homestead Co., Des Moines, Iowa.

Dime Curiosity Bargains.

Any Lot Sent Postpaid for a Silver Dime.

Chinese Package contains Chinese Lottery Ticket, Cash Coin Mock Money, Poker Chip and Writing Paper.

Marine Package contains Cowry, Sun Ray and Scallop Shells, Red Sea Bean, Alligator Tooth and Tarpon Scale.

Fossil Package contains Pentrimite, 3 crinoid stems and Recepticulites Owenii (a rare coral).

Relic Package contains New York Tribune during war, Old Almanac—1840, and "Little Brown Jug" watch charm.

Indian Relic Package contains 4 Imperfect Points, Pottery and Wampum.

Foreign Package contains striped Jasper Pebble, Africa; Sacred Lotus Seed, Japan; two Job's Tears, Arabia; Horned Nut, China.

R. E. BARTLED, Rockford, Illinois
81 State Street.

SEND TO JOE FARMER, FLUSHING, Ohio, for circular of Choice Barred Plymouth Rocks and eggs.

CLEARING UP SALE! TO MAKE room for my breeding pens for the coming season I offer the balance of my stock at remarkably low prices. R. C. B. Leghorns, Partridge Cochins, Black Langshans, Light Brahmas and Black Minorcas. J. A. Weerts, La Salle, Ill.

WILLIS WHINERY, SALEM, O., breeds B. P. Rocks, Dark Brahmas, White and Buff Leghorns, and Black Minorcas. Eggs one dollar per 13: two dollars per 30.

COL. JOSEPH LEFFEL, Springfield, Ohio, is the most extensive breeder of fine poultry, pets, rabbits, ferrets, Guinea pigs, dogs, pigeons, Shetland ponies—Send for circular.

Golden Wyandottes,

AND Golden Seabright Bantams.

EXCLUSIVELY.

Eggs in season, \$1.50 per setting: two settings \$2.50. Stock for sale.

Our Stock Has Won

Many prizes for our patrons. We have shown but once, a pen of Bantams at the Rockford, Illinois, show, January, 1896. We won four prizes on them, score 90½, 94, 93, 93, 93.

J. J. BEAN, Abbotsford, Wisconsin.

CURES CAROWE Roup

In poultry. Price 50 cents. Walter Kirby & Co., Marietta, Ohio.

The American Poultry Advocate.

Clarence C. DePuy, publisher, Syracuse, N. Y., handsomely illustrated, 20 pages, 25c per year: 64-page illustrated practical poultry book free to yearly subscribers; book alone 10c; paper four months on trial 10c sample copy free.

Want a Brooder?

Not a Toy, but a
Business Brooder.

Roomy, Easy
to Clean.



Top and bottom heat;
Perfect Ventilation.

New 'American' Incubator and Brooder

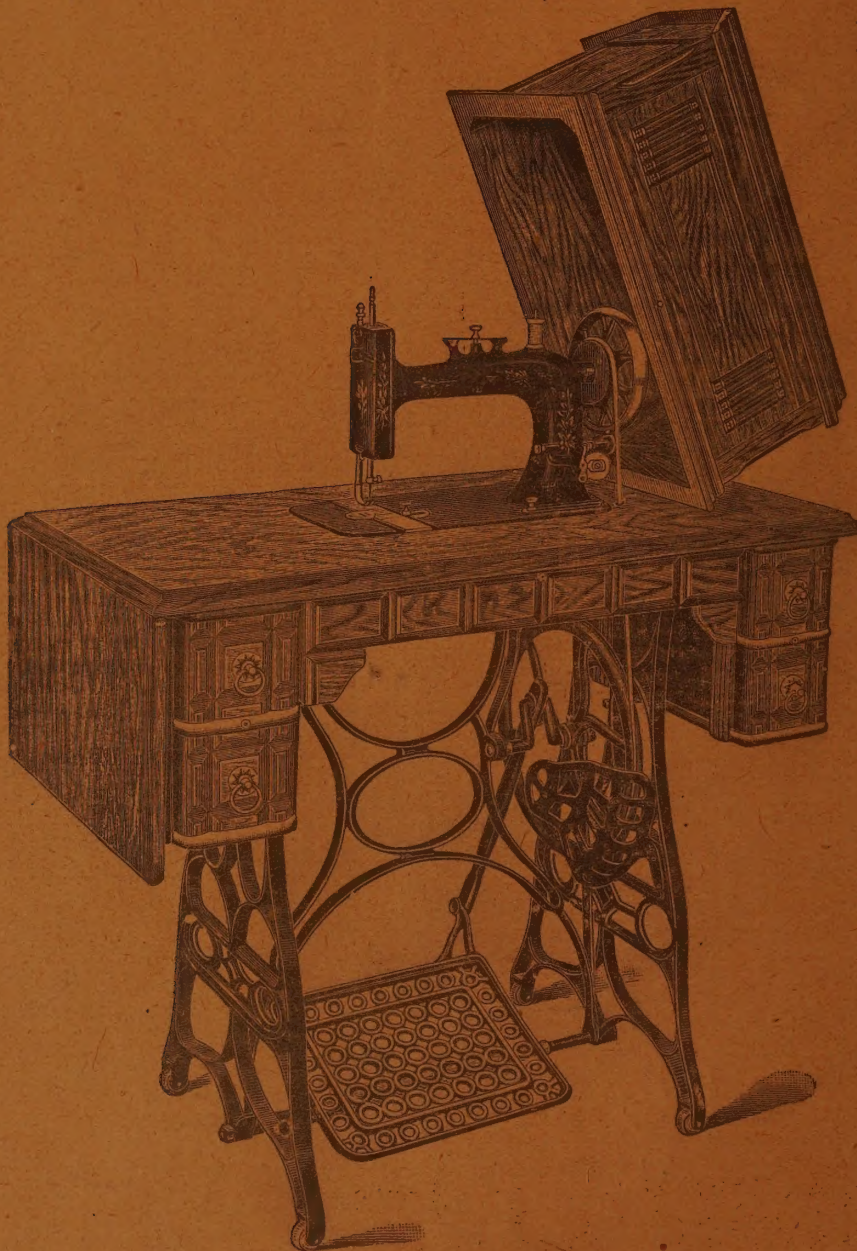
POULTRY SUPPLIES

MOST COMPLETE STOCK IN AMERICA.

OUR BOOK, "EVERYTHING FOR THE POULTRY YARD," Tells All 60 pages, finely illustrated, full of information. If you keep a hen you want it. Sent for 2c stamp.

GEO. J. NISSLY, Saline, Mich.

A \$40.00 SEWING MACHINE AT MANUFACTURERS COST!



THIS CUT

Correctly represents the elegant Sewing Machine which we are offering for only

\$17.50,

including the MESSENGER for a year.

Don't let the low price lead you into the error of thinking that this is a cheap machine. It is not. The cut tells you exactly how it looks. It is a handsome machine, finished in the Latest Style Oak. It has five drawers, a gothic top, and extension drop-leaf. It is easy running, fast and almost noiseless. As for wear,

We Warrant it for 10 Years

It has all the most recent improvements and includes a complete set of steel attachments. We have such unbounded confidence in the ability of this machine to make friends wherever it goes, that we offer, if it does not prove in all respects to be exactly as we represent it, to take it back at our expense, and to refund you all your money.

We claim for this machine that it is the

Best in the World.

What a Purchaser Thinks of it.

MT. CARROLL, ILL., Oct., 30, 1895.
The Messenger Company,
Aurelia, Iowa.

Gentlemen:—The sewing machine which I obtained of you I regard as the best which I have ever used, and I have had experience with a number of different kinds. I have no need of a better machine. I would not have believed that such a perfect machine could be sold for the money which you ask for it.

ELLA O'NEAL.

WE PAY THE FREIGHT

To Any Railroad Point in the United States East of the Rocky Mountains.

The manufacturers of this machine have successfully combined simplicity, durability, reliability, speed, strength and beauty, producing a machine unequalled for ease of management, and capacity for wide range of work. Uses a self-threading cylinder shuttle, and makes the double thread "lock stitch." It is adapted to every variety of sewing from the lightest muslin to the heaviest cloths. Persons who are disposed to doubt that a really first-class machine can be sold at this low figure run no risk in giving this one a trial. We repeat what we have said above: if it is not all we claim for it we will take it back and refund the money. Better conditions than this we cannot make.

THE MESSENGER COMPANY, Aurelia, Iowa.